



PAARAgraphs

Celebrating 61 years as a *real* ham radio club—*Since 1937*
Newsletter for the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



CALENDAR

- Sept....11, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
Menlo Park Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park 7:30-9:30 PM
- Sept....16, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30
Bakers Square Rest., 949 Veterans Blvd., Redwood City
(Temporary until Red Cross building repairs flood damage)
- Oct.....7, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
- Oct.....12, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30
- Oct.....16-18 **PACIFICON**, Concord
- Nov.....6, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
- Nov.....11, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30
- Nov.....14, **PAARA Auction**
American Legion Hall, 651 El Camino, Redwood City



PROGRAM

September 11, 1998
7:30 P.M.

Speaker:

Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV

"Space Station"

PAARA Radio NET every Monday evening at 8:30 P.M., local time
on the 145.230 -600 MHz repeater, PL tone off

MESSAGE FROM THE VEEP



I want to thank **Rich (W6APZ)**, our repeater trustee, for speaking at our August 7 meeting about the club repeater. I applaud him for "toughing it out" even though he had a sore throat. In addition, we had three guests at that meeting: **Lois KF6MMX**, whom I invited; **Ginger (KF6RTL)**; and **Arne (KF6EDK)**.

I am sorry to report that **Curt Roche (K6AL)** became a silent key on August 8. Our sympathies go out to his family.

Our Autumn Auction will be on Saturday, November 14, 1998, at the American Legion Hall, 651 El Camino Real, Redwood City. This is the same location where we hold the license exams. In addition to the auction, we will have about \$150 worth of raffle prizes. I encourage everyone to show up and bring one box equipment to sell at the PAARA table.

Be sure to check in to the Monday Night Net at 8:30 p.m. on the **W6APZ** repeater (145.23 MHz) to hear all the latest information. Anyone who checks into the net at least 20 times in 1998 will receive an operating award. Last month, **Herb (KF6BKL)**, **Steve (K6FS)**, **Donald (W6JMQ)**, **John (KF6KYL)**, **Les (WB6ORZ)**, **Hank (W6UCE)**, and **Fred (K6YT)** won operating awards.

Our next club meeting will be on September 11, (second Friday because of Labor Day). Club member **Gerry Tucker (WA6LNV)** will speak about the Space Station.

73, **Dave (WS6W)**,

Vice-President and Program Chairperson

Silent Key

Curtis Roche, K6AL

(former W6ZMW)

August 8, 1998

Miscellaneous Dates

Flea Market at Foothill (info at: <http://joslin.com/FleaMarket>)
 Sep. 12 Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications Society (SPECS)
 Oct. 10 Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club (EMARC)

PAARA Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association
 meets 1st Friday 7:30 each month, Net 145.230 each Monday 8:30,
 contact: Dave Bailey, WS6W 408 730 5215

EMARC Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club
 meets 4th Friday 7:30 each month,
 contact: Sheldon Edelman 650-858-2176, Edelman@richochet.net

NCDXC Northern California DX Club
 meets 2nd Friday 7:30 each month, repeater for member info 147.360, Thur
 8:00PM, contact: Bob Mammarella KB6FEC 408 729 1544

NorCalQRP Northern California QRP Club
 meets 1st Sunday each month,
 contact: Jim Cates 3241 Eastwood Rd., Sacramento, CA 95821.

Perham Foundation,
 contact: Jerry Tucker WA6LNV 650-961-3266

SPECS Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System
 meets each Monday 8:00PM on Net 145.27, 224.36, 440.80 MHz
 contact: Mike Hastings KB6LCI, 408-243-6745 or 408-249-6909.

SCARES South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service
 meets 3rd Thursday 7:30 each month, San Carlos City Hall.
 Net is on 144.45 & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings.
 contact: Dick Collins K6ANN 650-593-8952

SCCARA Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
 Operates W6UU repeater 146.385+ Nets: 2m, W6UU, 7:30 Mon; 10m,
 28.385, 8:00 Thur. meets 2nd Mon each month.
 contact: Jack Ruckman AC6FU

SVECS Silicon Valley Emergency Communications
 Operates WB6ADZ repeater (146.115 MHz+)
 contact: Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

WVARA West Valley Amateur Radio Association
 operates W6PIY repeater 147.39+, 223.96, 441.875, 1286.2
 meets 3rd Wed every month.
 contact: Glen Lokke Jr. KE6NBO at 408 971 8626, or glokke@pacbell.net

Disaster Services,

PALO ALTO CHAPTER, American Red Cross
 Meets 3rd Wed. each month 7:30PM,
 HF, packet, BBS, ATV, OSCAR Gateway, NASA satellite,
 contact: Alan Ball 650-688-0423.

SAN JOSE CHAPTER, American Red Cross
 contact: Scott Hensley KB6UOO, 408 249 7093, fsh@richochet.net

VE Exams, 3rd Saturday each month, 11AM, 145.23- PL=100Hz
 American Legion Hall, 651 El Camino Real, R.C.
 contact: Joe KB6OWG.



VE

VE: held August 15, 1998 at the American Legion Building in Redwood City. We were squeezed into the bar, with not so good lighting, and forbidden to go behind or sit at the bar. No bartender of course at that time. On hand to administer the exams were Joe Horne Sr. KB6OWG, Bill Sooman WB6UVO (CW guru in the pool room) Gene Irazarry KK6LO, Al Montoya WB6IMX, Dan Curry WB6STW, & Ron

Panton W6VG. On Saturday October 3rd 1998 no-code technician classes will be held at the Sequoia Yacht Club, Redwood City. On Sunday, tests will be given by the crew of VEs who handle each third Saturday session at the American Legion Hall.

—Ron, W6VG

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc. PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

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 Trustee/Property/Badges..Fred Canham, K6YT.....(650) 948 9238
 ARES Officer.....Lily Anne Hillis, N6PGM.....(650) 325 5484
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 Terry Conboy, N6RY (510) 944 5388 '99
 Steve Stuntz, K6FS (650) 322 4952 '99
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Submit material for PAARagraphs by the 15th

PAARA Website <http://www.qsl.net/paara/>



I TOLD THE WIFE SHE'S DUMB BECAUSE SHE CAN'T GET HER CODE SPEED UP--ACTUALLY, I THINK SHE'S GOT THE FASTEST "FIST" IN TOWN!

PAARA MONDAY NIGHT NET

8:30 PM 145.230-600 MHz repeater

PL tone off

Latest news between monthly issues of PAARagraph



PAARA PONDERINGS

de VIC BLACK, AB6SO

Silent Key: It is with great sadness that I report the death on Saturday, August 8, of PAARA member **Curt Roche K6AL (ex-W6ZMW)** at age 82. Curt's passing is a great loss to his family, friends and club.

PAARA awards certificates to operators who check into the Monday night PAARA Net 20 or more times during the calendar year. Last year 21 operators earned certificates. Award qualifiers this month include **Herb Davidson KF6BKL**, **Steve Stuntz K6FS**, **Donald Trask KF6JMQ**, **John Kohli KF6KYL**, **Les Zwiebel WB6ORZ**, **Hank Martin W6UCE**, **Fred Canham K6YT**, **Rich Stiebel W6APZ**, **Bill Smith KE6CHQ**, **Andy Anderson K6EHS**, **Andy Korsak VE3FZK**, **Andreas Junge AD6FQ**, **James Brosamle KF6OZV**, and **Rich Hyde KD6WYK**.

PAARA hosted a special event station on July 12 at Moffett Federal Air Field to honor the men and women of the 129th Rescue Wing of the California Air National Guard. PAARA members who qualified for certificates for working the Special Event Station N6M include **Doug Schliebus K1DIT**, **Dave Rice W6NUC**, **Andreas Junge AD6FQ**, **Jon Zweig KF6OLA**, **Andy Korsak VE3FZK**, **Herb Davidson KF6BKL**, **Charlie Grandjean WD6FAF** and **Dennis Freeman KF6OHO**.

Jon Zweig began last year as Tech Plus **KF6OBP**, upgraded to General Class **KF6OLA** then got his code speed up for his 20 wpm test and passed the Advanced Class written exam following Field Day for new callsign **KQ6XD** issued July 11. The FCC had a tough time keeping up, though, as Jon upgraded five days later to new Extra Class callsign **AD6FX**. Jon credits Field Day for inspiration. Jon's rapid ascent is a tribute to his commitment and perseverance. Good Show, Jon!!

Attention Techs: Upgrade Now!!!

In a bulletin posted August 10, the FCC proposed several changes to streamline the amateur rules. The last major overhaul of amateur regulations was in 1989. The current proposal is to phase out both the Novice and Technician Plus class licenses by attrition. This would leave four license classes: Technician (17 VHF bands), and three HF classes: General, Advanced, and Extra. Currently licensed Novice and Tech Plus licensees would retain HF operating privileges, but no new Novice or Tech Plus licenses would be issued.

In justifying the proposal, the FCC said, "there appears to be an unnecessary overlap between the Novice, Technician, and Technician Plus license classes." They pointed out that Technician and Tech Plus operators "predominantly" use FM and packet on VHF and UHF. In addition, the FCC noted that last year Novice applicants numbered fewer than 1000, while there were nearly 21,500 new Technician licenses. The proposal would combine the current Technician and Tech Plus classes into a single Technician class and eliminate the 5 WPM code

test entirely.

General class would become the entry-level HF license for new applicants who would need to pass a 13 WPM code test, unless the code requirement is lowered. Operating frequencies and license privileges for all classes would remain unchanged. The FCC is seeking comments on the disposition of the current Novice HF sub-bands, which carry a 200W output power limit for all licensees. They are proposing to delete the Novice bands and the power restrictions on higher-class licensees and permit "grandfathered" Tech Plus and Novices to operate CW anywhere on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters at 200W maximum output power.

The Commission is asking hams to comment on their CW testing preferences. They would like to know if hams prefer the current three-level system (5, 13, 20 wpm) or a one or two-tier system—and, if so, at what speeds. The FCC asked whether hams are willing to trade a reduction in Morse code requirements for additional written elements on newer digital technologies "which, in part, are replacing the Morse code." The Commission has asked what Morse code examination methods we prefer, such as fill-in-the-blank or one minute of solid copy, instead of allowing VE's to determine the testing method.

The Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) is on the ARRL Web page, <http://www.arrl.org>. The deadline for public comment is 01 December, 1998 with a reply comments deadline of 15 January, 1999. The FCC will accept electronic comments via the Internet at <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>.

What does this mean? First of all, if the proposed changes become law, you'll need at least a General Class license to access HF if you aren't grandfathered in now as a Novice or Tech Plus. Currently, you can upgrade from Tech to Tech Plus with only a 5 wpm multiple choice test. Increasing speed from 5 to 13 wpm is easier once you get one the air and use it.

After the changes, you'll have a more formidable chore ahead to learn 13 wpm, which could become the lowest speed CW standard. And you'll also need to pass the General Class written exam, which apparently could become more difficult in the future. Not only that, but it's possible that the CW test could return to "the good old days", formerly called "these trying times", when we were required to copy one full minute of perfect code instead of taking a multiple choice or fill-in-the-blanks test as we now have. Your best bet at this point is probably to upgrade from Technician to Tech Plus and hope to be grandfathered into HF operation with expanded frequency privileges.

©©©

meet with us at

PAARA 7:30

September 11



WEB WANDERINGS

de Vic Black, AB6SO

IOTA (Islands On The Air) is a program similar to DXCC, but administered by the Radio Society of Great Britain. Unlike DXCC, IOTA rewards contacts with islands and island groups rather than with countries. IOTA was created during the 1960's by Short Wave Listener **Geoff Watts** who rewarded SWL's for "island hunting". As the program became more popular and required more resources, it was assumed by the RSGB in 1985 and has become an obsession with many hams.

Awards are available for confirmed listener reports or contacts with stations operating from more than 1100 recognized islands or island groups in the world. A basic award is available for confirming contact with a minimum of 100 islands. Higher achievers may qualify by working 200, 300, 400, 500, 600 or 700 islands. There are also seven continental awards and three regional awards (Arctic, British Isles and West Indies). Plaques and shields are available for working higher numbers of islands. A total of 18 awards is possible.

Islands in the program are identified by a two-digit continent prefix followed by a numerical identifier. For example, the Channel Islands National Park near Santa Barbara have the North America designation NA144. Most activity centers on SSB frequencies 14.260 and 21.260 MHz. CW operations often center around 7.040, 14.040 and 21.040. Some island activators prefer to emphasize the WARC bands and 6 meters or use other modes, such as RTTY or even ATV/SSTV.

Many DXCC countries also qualify for IOTA. Several that come to mind are the Japanese Islands, Hawaiian Islands, New Zealand and many Caribbean island nations. Some urban areas, such as Long Island, NY, qualify as well. Islands must be in open ocean so Alcatraz doesn't count, but the Farallons, 35 miles away, are valid. If you have a large QSL collection, you may already qualify for an award.

You must obtain an RSGB IOTA Directory prior to applying for an award. The comprehensive manual describes the program in detail and lists qualifying islands. The directory is available for \$16 postpaid from **Dewitt Jones W4BAA**, P.O. Box 8695, Lacey, WA 98509.

QSL cards are checked by checkpoint operators in the US. If you have a 4, 5 or 6 in your callsign, your application will be checked by **Don Chamberlain W9DC** whose informative web site is at <http://www.innova.net/~w9dc>. The RSGB lists IOTA information at <http://www.rsgb.org/operate/iota/iota.html>. A particularly helpful site is <http://www.islandchaser.com>. You may want to bookmark <http://www.islandchaser.com/iotw/calendar/index.html> so you can get back to it easily. Here you'll find a current month's calendar with today highlighted along with a calendar for next month. You can click on a day or week and get a listing of all known IOTA expeditions, including QSL routes, for that time frame. Worldradio Maga-

zine and many DX clusters are also good sources of IOTA information.

Pumping 50 watts SSB into a vertical on a casual Saturday of operation in July, I worked the following IOTA islands on 20 and 15 meters:

Great Britain, New Caledonia, Australia, Queen Charlotte Island (B.C.), Johnstone Straits Islands (B.C.), Lopez Island (In San Juan Island Group: Special Call W7I), Dry Tortugas Island (special call W4T), Bimini Island (Bahamas; special call C6 IOTA), Long Island, South Carolina Barrier Islands, Fogo Island (Newfoundland) and a couple of small islands off the Rhode Island and Maine coasts.

Related in concept is the United States Islands (USI) Awards Program. USI was formed in September, 1994 in order to promote "island chasing" and "island hopping" by activating operations from US Islands, including both salt water and inland river or lake fresh water islands. Islands are designated by a 2-letter state prefix followed by a unique 3-digit identifier and the letters L, R or S for Lake, River or Sea. An example is Alcatraz Island, CA005S. Some islands have both IOTA and USI designators. A local example is NA187/CA003S, Lobos Rocks, near the Cliff House in San Francisco.

You may qualify a new USI island by making a minimum of 25 HF contacts from the island with at least 2 different countries. Islands must be at least 100 feet long, a minimum of 50 feet from shore at the time of the expedition and may be connected to the mainland or other islands by causeways or bridges. Several SF Bay islands have been activated and are in demand including Alcatraz, Yerba Buena, Treasure Island, Angel Island, Mare Island and the city of Alameda.

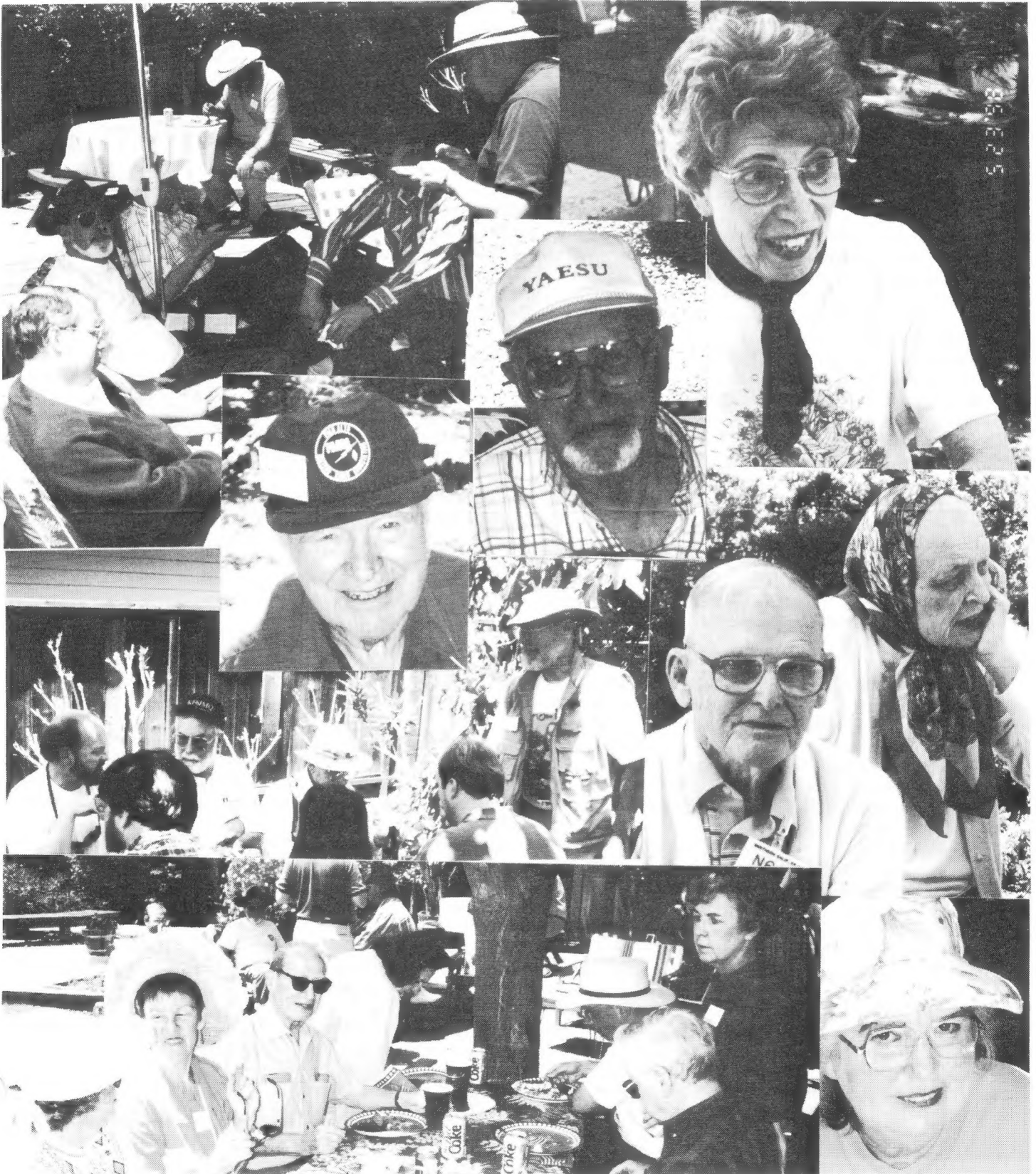
Other nearby islands you can drive to include islands of the San Joaquin and Mokelumne Rivers and the Sacramento River Delta. How about a DXpedition near Rio Vista to Brannon Island State Park Campground, CA023R, or nearby Sherman Island, CA021R, where you can watch windsurfers while you operate within sight of the Antioch Bridge? More information is available at <http://www.eng.mu.edu/~usi>.

At the July PAARA meeting ARRL Pacific Div Assistant Director **Jim Maxwell W6CF** discussed the new FCC RF Safety Requirements. Jim told us several ways to make the routine station evaluation. An additional source of info is found at <http://www.paulbunyan.net/users/crisman/mpe5.htm>. **Jon Crisman N9BHQ** has developed Windows 3.1/95 compatible software to do the evaluation. The advantage of this software is that it will evaluate complex repeater sites and multi-transmitter contest sites and report to standard printers. The software, MPE Calculator, is available for \$13.95 check or money order from Jon's company: JC Software, P.O. Box 972, Bemidji, Mn 56619-0972.

PAARA members are reporting a recent increase in 6 meter sporadic E activity. There has been some kind of activity 2-3 out of every 4 evenings. For a wealth of information about 6 meters try Strictly 6, the Australian 6 meter Web site, <http://www.nsl.qsl.net/vk1zfg>. The comprehensive site includes frequently asked questions, club listings, DX reports, operating

(Continued on page 80) Wanderings

PAARA PICNIC May 23, 1998





ARRL PACIFIC DIVISION UPDATE

by Brad Wyatt, K6WR, Director, Pacific Division, ARRL

WWW Pacific Division Home Page - <http://www.pdarrl.org/>

Major Amateur Radio License Restructuring Proposals Announced:-

In the last three weeks, two major US Amateur Radio License Restructuring proposals have been announced - one, the most recent, by the FCC, and one earlier by the ARRL. Because of the current complex US license structure and these announcements, it is probably inevitable that there will be a major restructuring. It is now YOUR turn to express your views about the future of Amateur Radio licensing and related topics in the US!

The FCC Proposal:-

As part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress mandated a "Biennial Review", - "aimed at simplifying, eliminating or modifying regulations that are overly burdensome or no longer serve the public interest" - for all services regulated by FCC. For the Amateur Radio Service, the FCC has now proposed to phase out the Novice and Technician Plus class licenses, leaving just four amateur license classes - Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra. The Commission also has asked the amateur community to express its opinions on Morse code requirements for licensing and testing, but offered no specific changes. They also asked for comments on the written examinations and on how to improve enforcement of rules. These proposals were among several suggested rules changes and invitations to comment contained in an FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), WT Docket 98-143, made public August 10, 1998. This NPRM offers a uniquely long comment period ending on Dec. 1, 1998, with the opportunity to comment via the WWW, email, and hard copy letters. This long comment period provides a unique challenge for ALL amateurs to give their opinions on a wide range of topics vital to the future of Amateur Radio.

In proposing to phase out the Novice and Tech Plus tickets, the FCC said "there appears to be an unnecessary overlap between the Novice, Technician, and Technician Plus license classes." The FCC also said that Technician and Tech Plus operators "predominantly" use FM and packet on VHF and UHF. In addition, the FCC said Novice applicants last year numbered fewer than 1000, while there were nearly 21,500 Technician applications.

Under the FCC plan, Novice and Tech Plus licensees would retain current operating privileges, but no new Novice or Tech Plus licenses would be granted. For examination purposes, current examination Elements 2 and 3A would be combined into a new Element 3A. For administrative purposes, the FCC would combine the current Technician and Tech Plus databases into a single Technician database.

The FCC did not propose to change any operating frequencies or license privileges for amateurs. However, the FCC does seek comment on the disposition of the current Novice HF bands, which carry a 200W output power limit for all licensees. The FCC invited comment on whether it would be "appropriate" to delete the Novice bands and the power restrictions on higher-class licensees and permit Novices to operate CW anywhere on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters at 200W output.

The Commission asked for comments on Morse code testing from the amateur community. In particular, the Commission said it wants to know if hams prefer the current three-level system or would like to see it reduced to a one or two-tier system and, if so, at what required speeds. The FCC asked whether hams would be willing to trade a reduction in Morse code requirements for additional written elements on newer digital technologies "which, in part, are replacing the Morse code." And, the Commission asked whether it should consider specifying Morse code examination methods, such as fill-in-the-blank or one minute of solid copy, instead of allowing VEs to determine the testing method. The FCC also invited comments on whether it should change written examination requirements "to provide VEs and VECs additional flexibility in determining the specific contents of written examinations."

Referring to an ARRL petition, RM-9150, the FCC invited comments on how it can improve its Amateur Radio enforcement processes. The FCC applauded the ARRL "for its creative thinking" in that petition, but said the specific proposal was "inconsistent" with the current statutory role of administrative law judges. The FCC raised the possibility of encouraging complainants to include a draft order "to show cause to initiate a revocation or cease and desist hearing proceeding." The FCC said it also wants to hear how it can better use the services of the Amateur Auxiliary in beefing up enforcement.

The FCC also seeks comments on how to deal with potential abuses of the current disability waiver for higher-speed Morse code tests. In RM-9196, the ARRL had asked the FCC to require anyone applying for an exemption pursuant to a doctor's certification to first attempt the higher-speed test before examination credit could be given. The League also asked that VECs have access to relevant medical information from the certifying physician. The FCC said the ARRL's proposal would place "an unfair burden on examinees" and raised serious privacy and confidentiality issues.

In other matters the FCC went along with another ARRL petition and proposed allowing Advanced class hams to be eligible to prepare and administer license examinations up through General class under the VE program. The FCC also proposed to phase out Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) stations by not renewing their licenses. The FCC also took the occasion to clarify the definition of "power" as used in the RF exposure table in Section 97.13©(1). The FCC said it refers to peak envelope power (PEP) input to the antenna. It also made clear that no one holding an FCC-issued ham ticket may apply for a reciprocal permit for an alien amateur license.

Significantly, the FCC set a longer-than-normal comment period. The deadline for comments is December 1, 1998. The deadline for reply comments is January 15, 1999. The FCC is encouraging electronic comments via the WWW at <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>; by email at ecfs@fcc.gov (for instructions, include in the body of the message the words - "Get form <your email address>"). Of course, written comments prepared in the traditional way and sent by US mail will also be accepted.

A copy of the complete NPRM has been posted on the ARRL Web page, <http://www.arrl.org>, and at the Pacific Division Web page at pdarrl.org. The FCC NPRM can also be downloaded from the FCC Web site in Word Perfect 5.1 and Text versions at:

<http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/Notices/1998/fcc98183.wp>

<http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/Notices/1998/fcc98183.txt> respectively.

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(Continued from page 78) ARRL

October QST will carry the full story on the FCC NPRM, as well as an editorial on the subject.

The ARRL Proposal:-

The ARRL Board delivered a license restructuring plan to FCC on July 22 (see ARRL Bulletins and the Special Edition of the Pacific Division Update for July 30, 1998). In brief, the plan is targeted toward 4 classes of licenses by renaming the Technician Class as Class D; would "grandfather" Novice and Tech Plus into Class C (General); expand phone bands on 80, 40, 15 meters; set Class C (General) code speed at 5 wpm - and Class B (Advanced) and Class A (Amateur Extra) at 12 wpm. Written examinations would be broader in scope and more comprehensive. The Board members were adamant that simplifying the structure should not come at the expense of privileges already earned by any amateurs.

The following key documents are available on the ARRL WWW site at the URL <http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring/>.

1. The announcement and outline of the plan itself.
2. Board meeting minutes (see Minute 53 for the details of the motion adopting the plan).
3. ARRL Letter of transmittal of the plan to FCC on July 22.
4. Frequently Asked Questions about the plan.

September QST, due to arrive soon, will carry the full story and an editorial about the ARRL Plan. Many local club newsletters are reporting on this proposal already.

Now It's YOUR Turn:-I believe that the new NPRM from the FCC provides a unique opportunity for all of us to express our views on the direction that

Amateur Radio will take in the US in the years ahead. I urge all of you to write and send your constructive comments to the FCC at one of the addresses noted above. To be effective, you should not only include your suggestions for change (or no change) in your letter, but should also include the rationale behind your suggestions. If you wish, please also send a copy to me at one of the addresses shown at the top of this Update!

Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act Needs Cosponsors:-

On March 27, Representatives Michael Bilirakis (R-FL-9th) and Ron Klink (D-PA-4th) introduced HR 3572, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1998.

The operational portion of the bill is Section 3 (see below), which, if passed, would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" if the Commission reallocates any primary or secondary Amateur Radio frequencies.

You can look up the full text of the bill on the House THOMAS web site at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c105:H.R.3572>:

Our strategy is very simple - obtain as many House cosponsors as we can before the end of the legislative session and elections later this year. Congress is in recess in August, so now is the time to contact your Congressman at home! To date we have 64 in total including the following cosponsors in the Pacific Division - Patsy Mink (D-HI-2); Tom Campbell (R-CA-15); John Doolittle (R-CA-4).

Let's get more of the Pacific Division House Members to be cosponsors! Cosponsors don't vote against their own bills!

Here is Section Three:

**"SEC. 3. FEDERAL POLICY REGARDING REALLOCATION
OF AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM.**

Section 303 of the Communications Act of 1934 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection: (y) Notwithstanding subsection ©, after July 1, 1998-

- (1) make no reallocation of primary allocations of bands of frequencies of the amateur radio service;
- (2) not diminish the secondary allocations of bands of frequencies to the amateur radio service; and
- (3) make no additional allocations within such bands of frequencies that would substantially reduce the utility thereof to the amateur radio service; unless the Commission, at the same time, provides equivalent replacement spectrum to the amateur radio service."

Brief Summary of Some of the Other FCC News Items Relating to Amateur Radio:-

•Lower fee levels for Vanity Calls: The vanity call sign application fee will drop to \$13 effective September 14, 1998, according to Terry Johnson in the FCC's Office of Managing Director. The new fee will be for the ten-year term, payable at the time of application for a new, renewed, or reinstated license. The current vanity call sign application fee is \$50. Earlier this year, the FCC had proposed dropping the fee to \$12.90. The actual fee was "rounded up," Johnson said.

The FCC says it has no plans to refund the difference between the current fee and the new fee for applicants who submit applications before the new fee schedule goes into effect in September.

•Proposed new licensing procedure: On Mar. 20, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making, Docket WT 98-20, "To Facilitate the Development and Use of the Universal Licensing System in the Wireless Telecommunications Services." Comments and Reply Comment dates are now well past. The NPRM apparently proposes no changes in privileges or qualifications for any class of license. Key goals appear to be:

1. Replacement of the venerable Form 610;
2. Elimination of the Form 610-A, thus providing paperless reciprocal licenses;
3. Proposed privatization of club licensing.
4. Require use of Taxpayer Identification Numbers (usually Social Security numbers).

The document is available at the FCC Web site at www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/.

The ARRL Comments are available on the ARRL web site at www.arrl.org.

Is It Elmer Time?

(from August 1998 ARNS Bulletin. This appeared in "Sunspots", the newsletter of the Redwood Empire DX Association, Steve Bertsch-WA6YFD Editor.)

An Elmer is the guy you go to, to ask questions about topics in Ham Radio that you don't understand. In that vein, you know it's time for you to find an Elmer if...

Your friend tells you he has a new two-meter radio and you figure one of the meters must be for SWR and the other for power out.

You hear a conversation on the low bands about CW and you think they're referring to the cold war.

You hear someone sign this is N8XXX mobile 4 and you think it's because he has three other radios

You hear that someone won a 40-meter radio at a hamfest and you wonder how they're going to get something that large in their house.

You build a Morse code key out of Plexiglas and can't figure out why it won't key your radio.

You think the difference between short wave and long wave is the speed at which you move your wrist back and forth.

You're thinking about joining your other ham friends in the local ATV group because you own a four wheel drive vehicle that will go just about anywhere.

You won't use a repeater because you've heard that using a repeater could be dangerous. You've heard an alligator could get you.

You think a collinear antenna can only be used with two am-

plifiers.

You think FM is the modulation type that came after EM, DM, CM, BM and AM.

You wouldn't mind getting into packet radio but no matter how much you practice you can't get the hang of sending those beeps and braps with your keyer.

You wonder what sound a short wave makes and why anyone would want to listen to one.

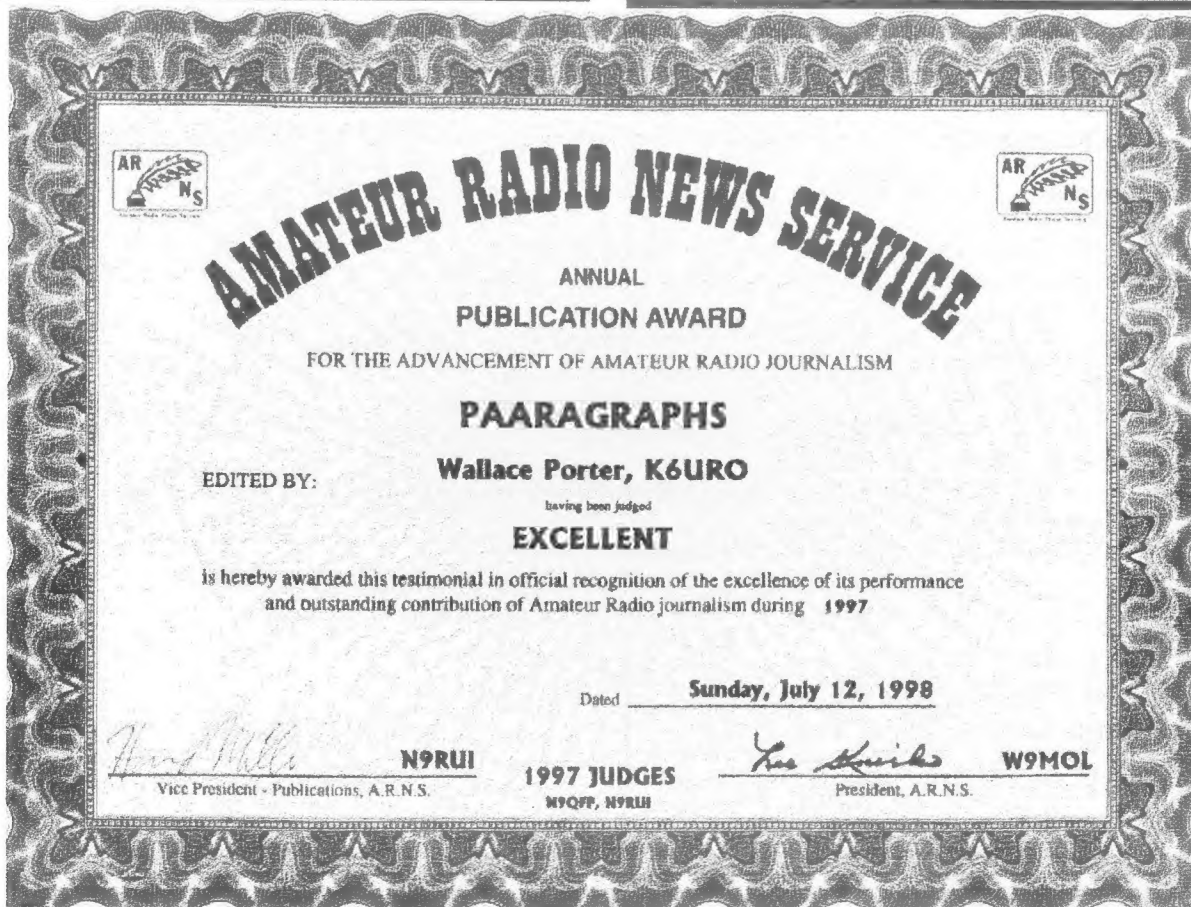
You think the repeater owner would be a lot happier if instead of talking about his cavities he just went to the dentist and got them filled.

You think a CW ID is the number the army gave you on your dog tags during the cold war.

(Continued from page 76) Wanderings

tools and email reflectors.

You can also check 6 meter beacons, repeaters, transverters, antennas, propagation, RF preamp and power amp suppliers, maps & books, equipment mods, homebrew projects and home pages for hams in several countries. Among all this you'll find a listing of nearly 70 rigs with 6 meter capability. These are hyperlinked so you can click on them for more detailed information. Remember that when short skip starts on 10 meters, it's a good time to check for sporadic E on 6 and 2 meters, as well. **Paul Lieb KH6HME** operates VHF/UHF beacons on Moana Loa. Several California stations have reported hearing the 2 meter beacon recently. :-)" ☺☺☺ —Vic, AB6SO





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September 1998

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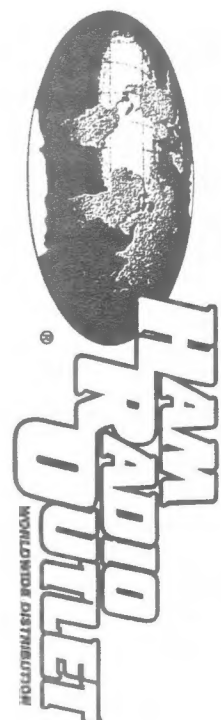
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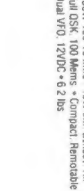
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